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## A SECOND STATION FOR FISSIDENS CLOSTERI.

LOUISE HOLMES HANDY.

September 27, 1908, while getting specimens of *Fissidens minutulus* in Tiverton, Rhode Island, near the Massachusetts line, I saw on the opposite bank of the brook a large flat stone covered with a purplish brown protonema and many straw colored specks that proved to be a tiny moss with leaves, seta and capsule. It was impossible to take them from the stone in perfect condition but two small stones with the moss I took home.

Under the microscope it was very beautiful; light green leaves, straw colored seta and capsule with red peristome; the whole plant, as Barnes gives it, less than 1 mm. high. It was found in a brook when the water was low but the banks were very damp and covered with dense shade. We called it *Fissidens Closteri* Aust., and were very glad when Dr. Grout confirmed the determination and said that our locality was the second on record.

Sullivant describes and figures it in *Icones Musc.* Suppl. p. 44, t. 29. If others have found it they have not reported it, but its small size and fruiting in September may account for its being overlooked. The specimens were in all stages, some having calyptra, others with all the spores gone and the leaves turning brown.

Fall River, Mass.

## A PLEA AGAINST ABBREVIATIONS.

Some American writers and publishers of exsiccata have in recent years fallen unconsciously into the habit of using geographical abbreviations. If this has not offended, it has certainly caused much annoyance to our foreign confreres, and a plea for reform in this practice comes from Dr. Emilio Levier, the very genial German bryologist resident in Florence, Italy. He writes in part:

"I am often seriously embarrassed to guess at the meaning of the abbreviations, which of course are easy enough for you in America, but which here (Europe) by no means belong to the instruction in elementary branches, and which I therefore am obliged to dig out laboriously from atlas and encyclopaedia. I take at random the label of your No. 70b, *Philonotis fontana*. This reads; "Selkirk Mts., near Armstrong, B. C." Pray what does this B. C. stand for? In my large atlas I find only that the Selkirks belong to *Manitoba*, which can by no possibility be abbreviated to B. C. And of Armstrong, not a trace in Manitoba! These abbreviations and hieroglyphics in labels, as I said before, are a despair to me.

"It seems to me therefore that it would be an extraordinary blessing to all of us not Americans, if you, Dr. Grout and all others, would form the resolution in the future to entirely avoid such unintelligible abbreviations on labels and other publications, and to write out in full all names of states and geographical data."

Dr. Levier then gives another illustration from Dr. Grout's exsiccata, No. 160, *Plagiothecium groutii*, Hempstead, L. I. To his joy our correspondent found by accident that L. I. stands for Long Island; but he insists that of one hundred or even one thousand educated Europeans not one would at sight know what L. I. stands for.

The writer then reverses the case, and assumes to send "*Calymperes Somieri* (Broth. ms.) Bott., Cossyra, Pa., near a vaporarium." Who in America would guess that Pa. was abbreviated from Pautellevia, an isolated islet between Sicily and Tunis! "Certainly," concludes the writer, "you would have good reason to complain of such unreasonable demand upon your knowledge of geography."

I am satisfied that this is a very reasonable and just appeal for clearness. And I am persuaded that every reasonable American—and I am inclined to think all are, though we forget sometimes, as here, to consider "the other man"—will heed the request, and *will act* on it.

JOHN M. HOLZINGER,  
Winona, Minnesota.

### GEORGIA GENICULATA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

This essentially northern species was collected by the writer at Waterville, N. H., during August, 1908. It was fairly abundant at the Cascades, at an altitude of 1800 ft. where it grew among the overhanging ledges, not inside, but around the mouths of the little caves, and bore abundant capsules, both last years, and immature. The best tufts had an approximately western exposure.

*Georgia geniculata* (Girgens.) Lindb. is distinguished from the common *G. pellucida* (L.) Rabenh. by its bent seta, rough above. At a distance it looks precisely like the ordinary species, but a careful inspection shows the knee-jointed pedicels, which are equally conspicuous on the green setae. At first sight the joint looks as if it had perhaps been accidentally bent, but examination under a lens shows no sign of an artificial bend, the joint also is little swollen.

Mrs. Britton says that this is the first report of *G. geniculata* from New Hampshire. Its distribution, from references at hand, is as follows: Japan, Amur region, Siberia, Alaska, British Columbia, Vancouver, Washington, Idaho, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, "appears to be common at Trinity Bay, Newfoundland." (Waghorne.)

The only previous report from New England is from Wenham, Mass.,<sup>1</sup> collected, J. H. Sears, in Herb. Kennedy.

When the substratum is mentioned in these references, it is given as "old logs" or "in a swamp," but the writer's specimens were on the ground.

It should be sought in similar situations in other parts of New England. The Cascades are gneiss and coarse granite, with no traces of limestone. Probably it is abundant throughout the White Mountains, but overlooked, *G. pellucida* being too common to collect. It is to be hoped that this note will inspire other collectors to report this interesting species.

Hartford, Connecticut.

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1 J. F. Collins, *Rhodora* VIII, July, 1906. p. 131.